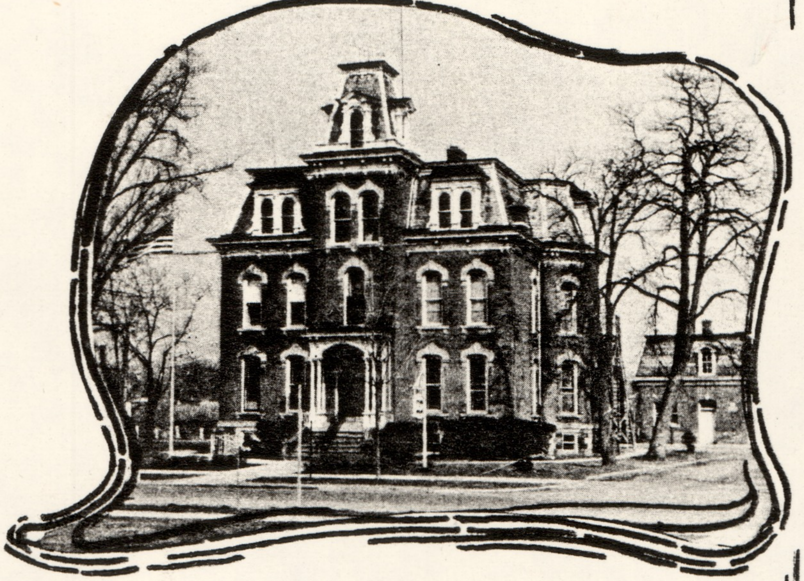
The Mayors of Ypsilanti



Compiled by-

Foster L. Fletcher
Ypsilanti City Historian ~

MAYORS OF YPSILANTI

NAME	PAGE
Allen, Edward P.	6
Ballard, Arden H.	1
Barnes, Lambert A.	5
Beal, Emery R.	17
Boatwright, Richard L.	30
Bogardus, Capt. Edgar	3
Bogardus, Francis P.	4
Bower, Ross K.	19
Brown, Clarence V.	15
Brown, Lee N.	15
Buck, Vincent	25
Burrell, Ray H.	18
Burton, John H.	28
Calder, John	23
Cornwell, Clark	7
Davis, Don L.	10
Davis, Parmenio	2
Dawson, Martin	11
Dyer, Timothy J.	29
Edwards, David	3
Follett, Benjamin	2
Foy, William E.	22
Fulford, Donald B.	23
Gaudy, George M.	12
Glover, Henry P.	8
Gooding, Jerry	26
Goodman, George	31
Harding, Nolan B.	10
Huston, Clifford R.	12
Hutchinson, Rodney	21
Joslin, Chauncey	1
Kirk, John P.	13
Max, Matthew	18
Murdock, Peter J.	32
Ninde, Thomas	5
Norton, Frank A.	14
Obermeyer, Maurice D.	24
Putnam, Daniel	8
Quirk, Daniel T.	19
Sayre, Susan	27
Schaible, Theodore E.	16
Scheffler, Carl J.	20
Scovill, Henry R.	6
Seymour, William	9
Snyder, Watson	4
Thompson, Oliver E.	11
Towner, Tracy L.	14
Vandewalker, Hugh E.	17
Van Fossen, John B.	13
Wells, Harlow D.	9
Yost, Chester L.	7

Elizabeth "Betty" Fenker was responsible for obtaining the pictures and dates for the first 30 Mayors of Ypsilanti. Betty had been with the Clerk's Office for 40 years and was City Clerk for the last 16, ending in 1970.

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Chauncey Joslin
1858-1859

CHAUNCEY JOSLIN 1858-1859

He was born June 28, 1813, in Throopville, New York, son of Lindsay and Mary Waite Joslin.

Came to Ypsilanti in 1837 where he studied a year in the office of Lawyer W.A. Bucklin and then another year in the office of Lawyer Marcus Lane. He passed the State Bar Examination and was elected Judge of Probate in 1852.

He served on Sault Ste. Marie Canal Commission 1853-1855.

Married Mrs. Emmaline Lane, widow of Marcus Lane, September 6, 1841.
Children: Fred C. b. June 18, 1841; Frank b. November 25, 1843; George b. December 11, 1846, d. May 1, 1862.

Emmaline Lane Joslin died December 28, 1846, and was buried in the 'Old Summit' Cemetery, corner of South Summit and West Michigan.

Married Sarah Maria Silsbury, March 15, 1849.
Children: Elvira Chase b. August 29, 1849; Ella b. January 9, 1853; Benjamin b. December 4, 1860; Hattie b. August 13, 1857.

The family home was on South Huron Street where the Gilbert Residence now stands at 203 South Huron.

Chauncey served for 20 years on the Ypsilanti School Board and in 1842 he was Recorder for the Village of Ypsilanti becoming Ypsilanti's first Mayor in 1858, the year Ypsilanti became a City.

He died October 31, 1889.

Arden H. Ballard
1859-1860

ARDEN H. BALLARD 1859-1860

He was born April 7, 1799, in Franklin County, Vermont, son of William and Cynthian Woodruff Ballard.

He came to Ypsilanti before 1828.

He served as President of Ypsilanti Village in 1847-1857 and then as Ypsilanti's second Mayor.

He invested in land and early banks. He built the pillared mansion at the SW corner of old Ellis (Washtenaw) and North Huron Street. It was his home until his death on July 23, 1867.

Benjamin Follett
1860-1861

BENJAMIN FOLLETT 1860-1861

Born August 10, 1819 in Batavia, New York, son of Nathan and Nancy K. Follett. He came to Ypsilanti in 1838.

Married Elvira Norris on September 23, 1841, daughter of Mark and Roxena Vaill Norris.

Mr. Follett was active in banking, real estate and lumber in the area.

He died suddenly when on a visit to Elmira, New York on December 26, 1864.

He was Ypsilanti's third Mayor and lived on the NE corner of River Street and Mill (Maple) Street in a very elegant home with flower gardens and a windmill to pump water up to a tank which furnished water for a lovely fountain.

Parmenio Davis
1861-1864 1868-1870

PARMENIO DAVIS, M.D. 1861-1864 and 1868-1870

He was born on April 22, 1816, in Covington, New York, son of Jonathan Edwards and Hannah Curtis Davis, and came to Ypsilanti in 1840 after graduating in Medicine from Western Medical College, Willoughby, Ohio.

Married Carlista Showerman, daughter of Timothy and Eunice Jones Showerman on October 24, 1841.

Dr. Davis had a medical practice as well as serving as first Alderman from the 5th Ward in 1858 and then elected the fourth Mayor of Ypsilanti serving three terms and re-elected in 1868-1870. He also served as County Supervisor in 1858-1859. He and J. N. Wallace are said to have built 65 houses in Ypsilanti, several of them substantial bricks and two are still standing. He lived on South Prospect.

He died November 17, 1883 of cancer.

David Edwards
1864-1865 1867-1868

DAVID EDWARDS 1864-1865 and 1867-1868

Mr. Edwards was born in Montpelier, Vermont on November 2, 1815 and died March 1, 1895 at the Hawkin's House Hotel. He came to Michigan and Ypsilanti Township about 1835.

Married Lucia Maria Fairchild on October 23, 1842. She was the daughter of Dr. Joel and Emma Bacon Fairchild.

b. January, 1826, Shelburn, Vermont

d. November 24, 1891

Their residence was at the NW corner of Congress (Michigan Avenue) and Hamilton Street and later at 126 North Huron Street with the Joel Fairchilds.

Edgar Bogardus
1865-1867

CAPT. EDGAR BOGARDUS 1865-1867

He was born on April 15, 1813 in Catskill, New York, son of Egbert and Elsie Bogardus. He died May 27, 1882.

He came to Ypsilanti in 1859 and served as Captain in the 14th Regiment in the Mexican War under General Winfield Scott. He was President of the First National Bank of Ypsilanti.

Married 1st, Adeline Smith in 1833 and she died in 1844.

He then married Elizabeth Conklin Whiting in 1845.

DAVID EDWARDS 1867-1868
(See 1864-1865)

PARMENIO DAVIS, M.D. 1868-1870
(See 1861-1864)

Francis P. Bogardus
1871-1873 1888-1889

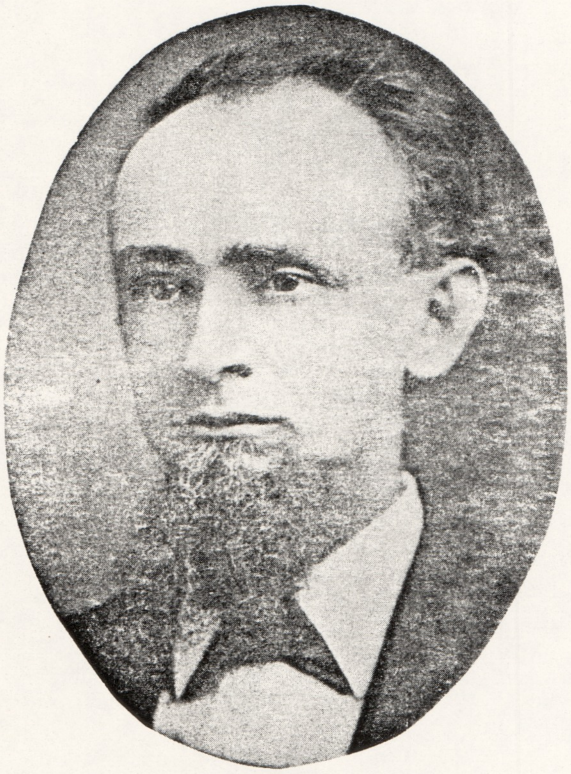
FRANCIS P. BOGARDUS 1871-1873 and 1888-1889

He was born on May 9, 1837 in Carbondale, Pennsylvania, son of Edgar and Elizabeth Conklin Bogardus, and died April 2, 1900.

Married Sarah Elizabeth Hall on September 28, 1858, daughter of Charles Hall of Ypsilanti. She was born February 7, 1840, in Massilon, Ohio, and died January 11, 1906.

He came to Ypsilanti in 1847. He was a Cashier at the First National Bank of Ypsilanti in 1873 and instrumental in locating Michigan State Normal College in Ypsilanti. He was City Treasurer 1876-1880, and Postmaster 1895-1900.

He resided at 12 South Huron Street (SW corner of Ferris Street).



Watson Snyder
1873-1875

WATSON SNYDER 1873-1875

Born in 1833 in Newark, New Jersey and died January 19, 1892 at Bay View, Michigan.

Married Anna Beaumont, daughter of Charles and Betsy Shier on July 26, 1867.

Anna was born in 1844 in New Jersey and died in Bay View.

The Snyders came to Ypsilanti in 1866 and resided in an elegant house on the north side of Forest Avenue near Perrin Street.

Watson was a very public spirited man and active in anti-saloon work. He was one of the promoters and founders of the Bay View Association in 1875 as a Methodist Camp meeting "for intellectual and scientific culture and the promotion of the cause of religion and morality."

He spent many of his years at Bay View and built several brick store buildings in Petoskey.

Lambert A. Barnes
1875-1878 1879-1880

LAMBERT A. BARNES 1875-1878 and 1879-1880

Born February 5, 1827, in Cheshire, Conn., son of Diamond and Ann Blakely Barnes of South Durham, New York.

Lambert came to the Ypsilanti area by way of Geddes in the late 1850's. He married Jane Geddes on September 24, 1861, daughter of Robert and Mariah Lane Geddes. Jane was born August 11, 1830, on the Geddes farm.

Their home was about at the end of Earhart Road and overlooked the Huron River from the North Side. It was while residing there that he became President of the newly (1867) organized Peninsular Paper Company. He also served as Secretary and Superintendent of that company.

The Barnes family bought 220 N. Huron Street in 1875, the year Lambert A. Barnes became Mayor of Ypsilanti and was a great influence in the affairs of the City.

He died June 20, 1887, in Detroit where he had gone for treatment of an ulcerated tooth. At the time of his death, he was Vice President of the First National Bank. Mrs. Barnes died at the home July 9, 1893. The home remained in the Barnes family until 1922.

Thomas Ninde
1878-1879

THOMAS NINDE 1878-1879

Born September 10, 1815 in Baltimore, Maryland. He was educated at Genesee College in Lima, New York, and admitted to the Bar at Rochester, New York. He came to Ypsilanti in 1855 and was a partner in the Law office with Lyman D. Norris. Elected Washtenaw County Probate Judge in 1860.

His first marriage was to Matilda Moore who died March 1, 1865.

His second marriage was to Lois Crane, daughter of George Crane, on December 26, 1867.

In 1864 the City voted to name the alley running from 44 East Cross Street to River Street after Judge Ninde. He made his home on the south edge of the alley at 307 River Street (this location was 14 South River Street under the original numbering).

He died on June 30, 1891, and is buried in Highland Cemetery.

LAMBERT A. BARNES 1879-1880

(See 1875-1878)

Edward P. Allen
1880-1881 - 1899-1900

EDWARD P. ALLEN 1880-1881 and 1899-1900

Born October 28, 1839, in Sharon Township, son of Lewis and Eliza Allen.

Married Clara E. Cushman May 12, 1869. Clara was the daughter of Samuel Cushman of Sharon Township.

He graduated from Michigan State Normal College in 1864 and the University of Michigan Law School in 1867. He served as Captain in the 29th Michigan Infantry in the Civil War. In 1872 and 1874, he was a City Alderman and later served as representative to the 50th and 51st Congress.

He lived at 40 Normal Street, 11 Adams Street and 213 Hamilton Street.

His Law partner was Sullivan M. Cutcheon.

Mr. Allen died on November 25, 1909.

Henry R. Scovill
1881-1884 1900-1901

HENRY ROSWELL SCOVILL 1881-1884 and 1900-1901

Born January 28, 1843, in Cleveland, Ohio, son of Amasa and Laura Ruggles Scovill. Henry's father moved to Ypsilanti in the 1850's and several years later moved to Utah and became a Morman.

Henry enlisted in the First Regiment of Volunteers on April 22, 1861, answering President Lincoln's call for 75,000 men.

After the Civil War, he married Mary A. Jarvis, daughter of William and Ann Watson Jarvis, February 15, 1868. Mary died on September 15, 1884. On January 25, 1888, Mr. Scoville married Nina Belle Mavis, daughter of John and Clara Peck Mavis.

He was a partner of Joseph Follmore in a Saw Mill and Lumber yard at the north end of Frog Island near the Forest Avenue Bridge.

In the spring flood of 1904, the Saw Mill was destroyed and the partnership ceased. Scoville located a lumber yard at Jarvis Street and North Huron Street. He dealt in lumber but built the large brick home at 160 North Washington Street in the 1890's.

Mr. Scoville died on October 12, 1929.

Chester L. Yost
1884-1886

CHESTER LESLIE YOST 1884-1886

Born March 10, 1838, in Waterloo, New York, the son of William and Melinda Yost.

He came to Ypsilanti in 1855 as an Auctioneer, Harness maker and dealer in leather and animal skins.

He married Anna Vreeland on May 11, 1862.

In the February 3, 1860, fire at Depot Town, his shop was destroyed. He resumed harness making in a shop east of the Follett House Hotel. It was while serving as Mayor, he promoted the plan to purchase acreage west of Summit Street on the South side of Congress for a race track and park, now known as Recreation Park.

He lived at 315 North Huron Street and died on September 10, 1908.

Clark Cornwell
1886-1888

CLARK CORNWELL 1886-1888

Born October 8, 1843, at Foster's Mill (Newport), Ann Arbor, son of Cornelius Cornwell. He married Clara E. Taylor on November 3, 1864. Clara was born July 24, 1845 and died March 26, 1908.

He was one of the Cornwells who owned at least four paper mills, two on the Huron River in Ann Arbor, a large one at Lowell in Superior Township and also the one of the Southeast edge of Ypsilanti.

Clark served on the Ypsilanti School Board, as Alderman and then as Mayor of Ypsilanti. In 1901 he was president of the Ypsilanti Paper Co., and the Washtenaw Electric Co., and lived in the mansion at 223 River Street.

Mr. Cornwell died on May 24, 1903.

FRANCIS P. BOGARDUS 1888-1889

(See 1871-1873)

Daniel Putnam
1889-1891

DANIEL PUTNAM 1889-1891

Born January 8, 1824, in Lyndboro, New Hampshire and married Sarah E. Smith on July 27, 1852.

Mr. Putnam graduated from Dartmouth College in 1851 and came to Michigan in 1854 as a Professor at Michigan State Normal College in 1867.

He served as a 3rd Ward Alderman and then as Ypsilanti's Mayor. His wife, Sarah, was active in the social life of Ypsilanti and was one of the organizers of the Ladies Literary Club.

There were five children in the family but Mrs. Putnam was blind for many years and never saw four of her children.

The Putnams resided at 314 West Forest. He died on July 29, 1906 and she lived until March 9, 1909.

Henry P. Glover
1891-1893

HENRY PIERCE STRONG GLOVER 1891-1893

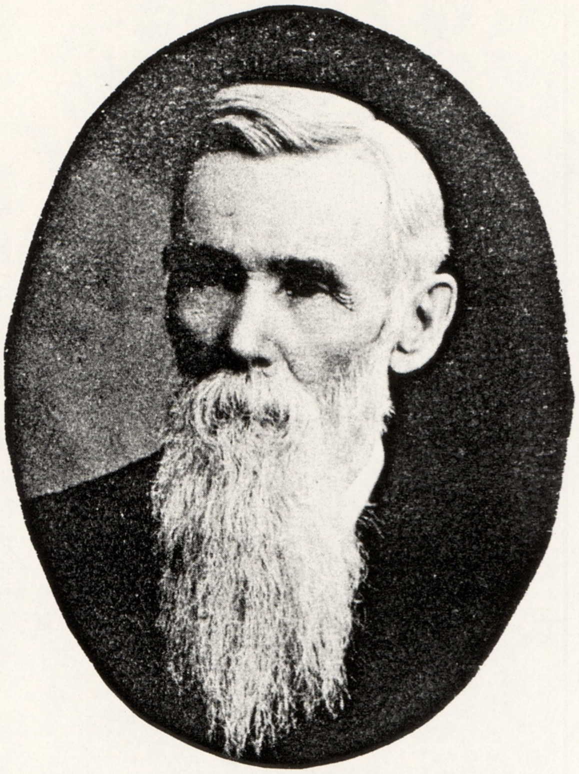
He was the son of Charles W. and Mary A. Glover, born March 3, 1837, in Webster County, New York.

Came to Ypsilanti with his parents in 1839 and lived on Willis Road just west of Hitchingham Road. At an early age he worked as a clerk in the drygoods store of Hewitt Bros. In 1878 he opened his own drygoods store at 102 Congress Street (Michigan Avenue). He was there for ten successful years, selling out to Lamb, Davis and Kishlar.

In 1890 he promoted and built the Ann Arbor-Ypsilanti Motor Line with R.W. Hemphill.

He served as President of the Ypsilanti Dress Stay Co., President of the Scharf Tag Label & Box Co., President of the Ann Arbor Electric Co., Vice President of the Ypsilanti Savings Bank and found time to serve as Ypsilanti's Mayor from 1891-1892.

He married Nancy Jane Kishlar on April 17, 1860, and they lived at 118 South Huron Street until his death on February 21, 1912. Surely one of Ypsilanti's most distinguished citizens.



William B. Seymour
1893-1894

WILLIAM B. SEYMOUR 1893-1894

Born in Victory, Cayuga County, New York, on March 4, 1833.

Came to Ypsilanti in 1855 and married Anna E. Packham of Climax, Michigan, on October 10, 1858. They resided at 517 Emmet Street for many years.

In 1861 he served as a Commercial Traveler and as an Insurance Agent for many years. He served as Alderman from the 3rd Ward and always took an active part in City affairs.

Elected Mayor of Ypsilanti in 1893-1894.

He died in 1916.

Harlow D. Wells
1895-1896

HARLOW DAVIS WELLS 1895-1896

Born January 15, 1855, on a farm in Johnstown Township, Wayne County. He was the son of Chandler and Eliza Davis but after his father died, his mother married Rev. Chandler Wells and Harlow assumed the name of Wells.

He married Violette Riggs, March 2, 1897.

He was a partner with Hiram Fisk in the grocery located at 123 West Michigan.

Always active in politics, he was appointed Postmaster in 1900 and served for 4 years. Also Alderman from the 3rd Ward living at 309 West Cross Street and then elected Mayor in 1895.

He died February 24, 1913.

Nolan B. Harding
1897-1898

NOLAN BRUCE HARDING 1897-1898

Born in Brucetown, West Virginia in 1854. Died July 28, 1906, in Ypsilanti.

Married Mary Robinson of Pennsylvania in 1875 (ch 1).

He was a graduate of Smithfield Academy, Smithfield, Pennsylvania, and University of West Virginia.

Came to Ypsilanti in 1889. He was a partner in the Hardware firm of "Harding & Shaefer."

In 1896 he resided at 801 Congress Street.

Don Lewis Davis
1898-1899

DON LEWIS DAVIS 1898-1899

Born September 18, 1859, in Ypsilanti, son of Parmenio and Carlista Showerman Davis.

Married Ida Sweet on November 2, 1882, daughter of William T. and Margaret Van Tuyl Sweet, born May 19, 1860, in Romulus, New York.

The Davis family lived at 322 Maple from 1872 until about 1900 when they moved to 102 South Washington Street.

With his father, Parmenio, and then with J. Herbert Hopkins, he operated a grocery and general store as well as a Crockery, Grocery and Bakery at 131-133 West Congress Street (Michigan Avenue) and moving that store to 200 West Congress in 1905 when the First National Bank bought the property at 131-133 Congress Street.

Always interested in school and civic affairs, he was elected Mayor of Ypsilanti in 1898-1899.

He died November 1, 1934.

EDWARD P. ALLEN 1899-1900

(See 1880-1881)

HENRY R. SCOVILL 1900-1901

(See 1881-1884)

O. E. Thompson
1901-1902

OLIVER EMERSON THOMPSON 1901-1902

Son of Benjamin and Mercy S. Thompson, born in 1838.

Married Elizabeth Cooper, who was born on November 17, 1838.

Oliver had several business enterprises in the big brick building at 400-6 River Street. A dealer for agriculture implements, he had an extensive stock of paints, oils, wagons, carriages and other farm items, manufacturing several of them.

The Thompson family had extensive real estate holdings on East Cross Street and extending north to Maple Street.

Always interested in banking and civic affairs, he was elected Mayor of Ypsilanti in 1901-1902.

He died in 1910.

Martin Dawson
1902-1903

MARTIN DAWSON 1902-1903

Born November 11, 1862, in Limerick, Ireland, son of Michael and Bridget Dawson and lived on a farm near Willis, Michigan. Married Mary (Mamie) Fletcher on January 6, 1886, daughter of Franklin and Marry Harris Fletcher.

In 1892 he moved from Willis to Ypsilanti and became a partner with Clifford R. Huston in Flour, Feed and Farm Implement business located at 14 South Washington Street.

In 1901 the partnership dissolved and Martin Dawson opened an Implement and Feed Store at 213-215 West Michigan. In 1907 he became the Agent for the Overland automobile.

He was elected Mayor of Ypsilanti in 1902. His former partner became the Mayor the next year.

Martin Dawson died March 21, 1915.

C. R. Huston
1903-1904

CLIFFORD R. HUSTON 1903-1904

Born March 22, 1865, in Canton Township, Wayne County, son of Reuben and Sarah E. Huston.

He graduated from Michigan State Normal College in 1886 and studied law at the University of Michigan.

Married Sarah Eudora Fairbain of Detroit on September 10, 1901. He was a business partner with Martin Dawson from 1892 to 1902.

Elected Mayor in 1903 and in 1905 moved to Detroit where he was a grain broker.

He died in Detroit on July 9, 1931, and was given a Masonic Funeral.

George Gaudy
1904-1906

GEORGE MILNE GAUDY 1904-1906

Born in Stratford-on-Avon, Ontario, Canada, on November 19, 1864, son of John and Elizabeth Moir Gaudy.

Came to Ypsilanti in 1882 and married Nella A. Jarvis on May 26, 1886, daughter of George and Melvina Holmes Jarvis. That same year he opened his bakery and confectionary business in the 1st block on North Huron Street, soon moving to 119 Congress Street (Michigan Avenue). The business grew and in 1914 the bakery was sold and the confectionary moved to 24 North Washington Street and became Gaudy's Chocolate Shop with son, Harold Gaudy, as manager when he returned from WWI.

George Gaudy served as Alderman, was elected for two terms as Ypsilanti Mayor 1904-1906.

He died on January 6, 1944 in the Masonic Home at Alma, Michigan.

John Van Fossen
1906-1908

JOHN BRINKERHOFF VAN FOSSEN 1906-1908

Born in 1857, son of R. W. Van Fossen.

Graduated from the Ypsilanti Seminary and the University of Michigan Dental School in March of 1883.

Married Clara Dolph on September 18, 1884.

His dental office was located on the second floor of 200 West Michigan from 1885 until 1907.

Elected Mayor in 1906 and was serving at the time of his death, November 27, 1907, when he shot himself.

He resided at 130 N. Normal.

John P. Kirk
1908-1910

JOHN PATRICK KIRK 1908-1910

Born September 20, 1867, son of Bernard and Ann Murphy Kirk.

He graduated from Ypsilanti High School in 1886 and the University of Michigan Law School in 1888. On June 8, 1891, he was appointed City Attorney and was a partner in the Law Office of Judge J.W. Babbitt.

John served as 1st Lieutenant, Co. H. Fourth Regiment, Michigan State Troops and became a Colonel at the time of the Spanish-American War, 1898-1899.

He married Mary Schaff Acker, daughter of John and Mary Smith Schaff, June 20, 1898, at Chattanooga, Tennessee.

He served as President of the Ypsilanti Savings Bank for several years after being elected in 1931. He lived at 427 Ballard from 1907 until his death, August 22, 1952. He was elected Mayor in 1908.

Tracy Towner
1910-1912

TRACY LAY TOWNER 1910-1912

Born March 2, 1964, son of Norman and Jeannette Spencer Towner in Ypsilanti.

Some of the family came to Ypsilanti in 1835 from New York State and others followed in 1856.

Tracy graduated from the old Seminary and from the University of Michigan Law School in 1888, the same class as his close friend, John P. Kirk.

His family lived at 303 North Huron and he continued living there until his death, October 14, 1943.

As an attorney and representing five insurance companies, he maintained an office in the Ypsilanti Savings Bank Building at 1 South Huron Street.

He was elected Mayor in 1910.

Frank Norton
1912-1914

FRANK AUSTIN NORTON 1912-1914

Born June 1, 1867, in Ypsilanti, son of Austin D. and Sarah Jane Norton.

Frank located on Lowell Street and started a commercial greenhouse, expanding several times through the years.

He married Lena Eisenlord on September 18, 1895, daughter of Joseph Eisenlord of Northville, Michigan.

Graduated from Michigan State Normal School in 1889. Taught school for 3 years in Tucson, Arizona. Was in Mason Contracting Business with his father and brother. Started his own greenhouse business about October 1, 1895.

He served four years as 3rd Ward Councilman and then was elected Mayor in 1912.

He died October 1, 1947.

Lee Brown
1914-1916

LEE NATHAN BROWN 1914-1916

Son of Leicester R. Brown, was born October 6, 1869 on the family farm near Rawsonville.

He attended the old Seminary and later "read Law" in various offices of attorneys and passed the State Bar examination. He began as an attorney in 1893 and had his office at 10 E. Cross Street.

He was elected Mayor of Ypsilanti in 1914 and it was during his term that Michigan Street became Ferris Street and Congress Street became Michigan Avenue.

He died November 5, 1948, after four happy marriages.

C. V. Brown
1916-1920

CLARENCE V. BROWN 1916-1920

Born March 21, 1879, in Bellevue, Ohio.

He married Bessie M. Cannan in May, 1900 and they moved to Ypsilanti on March 1, 1911, having recently purchased an interest in Press Steel Whiffletree Company, changing the name to United States Pressed Steel Whiffletree Company in 1912. This plant was located near Steward Street where the old Cornwell papermill was located, now the site of Ford Motor Company plant. "C.V.", as he was called, was active in business and social affairs and was a Charter Member in 1917 of the Ypsilanti Rotary Club.

He served two terms as Mayor, being elected first in 1916 and serving through WW years.

The plant property was sold to Ford Motor Company in 1930 and the Browns moved to Kalamazoo, where he died several years ago.

Theodore Schaible
1921-1922

THEODORE E. SCHAIBLE 1921-1922

Born March 6, 1888 in Freedom Township.

He married Charlotte Melissa Clark, daughter of John M. and Lizzie Clark.

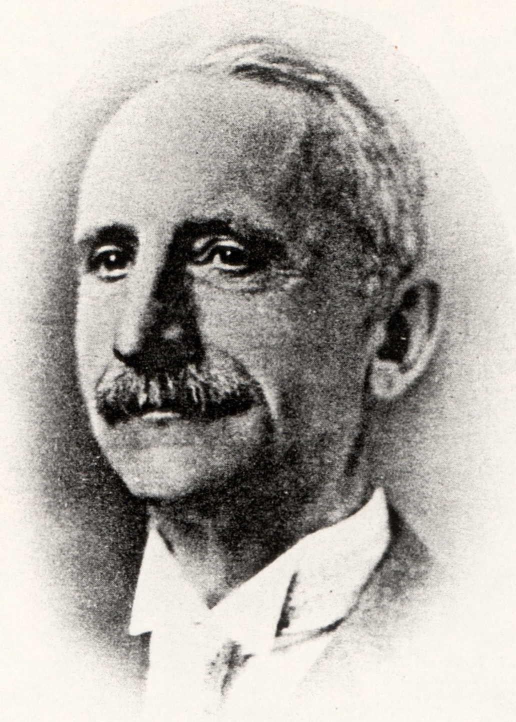
After graduating from Cleary Business College, he worked in the office of the Michigan Central Railroad and in 1909 was hired by the Ford Motor Company as company representative for Washtenaw County and much of Michigan. In 1910, when there were only six automobiles registered in all of Washtenaw County, he and E.G. Wiedman established a Ford Agency for Washtenaw County with headquarters in Saline, Michigan. They sold the models that preceded the Model-T Ford and soon moved their business to Ypsilanti locating in a brick building known as the Hawkins Garage, at the rear of 27 N. Washington Street.

"The Schaible-Wiedman Auto Company. Automobiles, Accessories and Supplies" their 1912 Directory Ad reads.

It was in the early spring of 1912 a disasterous fire struck that building. Undaunted, property at 212-214 Pearl Street was bought and a modern garage built. The partnership dissolved with Emmanuel G. Wiedman retaining the Ford dealership at 212 Pearl Street and Schaible built a salesroom and garage for the Buick agency at the southwest corner of East Michigan Avenue and River Street. He had pioneered in selling the Model-T Ford, the Maxwell, Buick six, the LaSalle, the Cadillac 12, Rochne, and Studebaker Champion.

Active in Church, Lodge and Civic affairs, he served as Ypsilanti Mayor 1921-1922.

He moved to Ann Arbor in 1935 where he died August 22, 1975.



E. R. Beal
1922-1923

EMERY RICHARD BEAL 1922-1923

Son of Joseph and Martha Beal, was born on December 5, 1865, on a farm near Farmington, Michigan. After High School, he graduated from the University of Michigan in 1885.

He came to Ypsilanti in 1893 and established a Drug Store at 224 West Michigan and lived in the building above the store.

On June 9, 1897, he married Minnie B. Jenkins of Portland, Michigan, who had been a student at the Michigan State Normal College in 1895-1896.

The Beals were always interested in Education and in 1922 Mrs. Beal was elected to the Ypsilanti School Board, serving until 1933.

It was while E.R. Beal was Mayor 1922-1923, that the Ypsilanti Centennial took place, the greatest celebration and homecoming in Ypsilanti History.

In 1906, the Beals bought the property at 502 Pearl Street and built a two-story house of embossed cement block, the first of that type in this area.

Having been raised on a farm, Emery was always interested in land and farming, buying several farms on Stoney Creek Road and nearly 100 acres between Washtenaw and Congress east of Mansfield and actively farmed that tract.

He died on March 3, 1939.

Hugh E. Vandewalker
1924-1928

HUGH E. VANDEWALKER 1924-1928

Son of Arthur and Jeanette Huntley Vandewalker, born in Kalamazoo County on July 15, 1876.

He came to Ypsilanti in 1900 to try to improve his frail health by taking baths in the Ypsilanti Mineral Bathhouse at 28 N. Huron Street. His health improved and December 3, 1902, he married Abbie Vought, daughter of Philip Grandon and Mary Reed Vought. Abbie was born October 27, 1879, near Cherry Hill in Superior Township.

In 1900 Hugh formed a partnership with Fred W. Green selling Real Estate, Insurance and making loans. In 1907 he became a partner with George R. Gunn in the same kind of business and lived at 104 South Huron Street. Within a few years he became manager of the G.H. Scharf Co. In 1914 he became State Agent for Peoria Life Insurance Company.

He was elected Mayor of Ypsilanti in 1924 and served two terms.

He died April 8, 1943.

Matthew Max
1929-1934

MATTHEW MAX 1929-1934

Born September 5, 1877, son of Nicholas and Mary Henninger Max. He married Katherine Tern on November 14, 1907.

Matt served twenty years as Fifth Ward Alderman, holding public office every year from 1908 until his death on January 12, 1954.

In 1934 he was appointed Postmaster of Ypsilanti, retiring in June 1949.

A former President of the Chamber of Commerce, Life Member of the Ann Arbor Elks Club, member of the Knights of Columbus, Ypsilanti Kiwanis Club and the Loyal Order of Moose.

He was owner of a shoe store at 103 West Michigan Avenue and at the time of his death was serving his third term on the Washtenaw Board of Supervisors.

He was elected Mayor of Ypsilanti in 1929 and served in the capacity until 1934.

He died at his home, 105 Babbitt Street, on January 12, 1954.

Ray H. Burrell
1934-1940

RAY H. BURRELL 1934-1940

Born August 31, 1893, son of Alfred J. and Jennie L. Burrell. He married Julia Rust on October 7, 1914, daughter of Frank J. and Eva A Rust of Willis.

Ray was a Charter Member of the Ypsilanti Kiwanis Club, served as a Director of the Ypsilanti Area Chamber of Commerce, Chairman of the Ypsilanti OPA Rationing Board during WWII, Life Member of Queen City Lodge, No. 167, Knights of Pythias and past Grand Chancellor of the Knights of Pythias of Michigan.

Ray Burrell, always interested in Civic, Church and Fraternal doings, was elected City Alderman, serving from 1924 to 1932. He was a partner in the A.J. Burrell & Son Co., that business being formed in 1915 by his father Alfred J. Burrell, making granite headstones and burial vaults.

Ray was elected Mayor of Ypsilanti in 1934 and it was that year he appointed Louis S. White as City Historian, a great thing for the Ypsilanti Historical Society and the community.

It was while he was Mayor that the water filtration and sewage disposal plants were built.

At the time of his death on December 1, 1965, he was a director and Vice President of the Ypsilanti Savings Bank.

He was Mayor of Ypsilanti 1934-1940.

Ross K. Bower
1941-1947

ROSS K. BOWER 1941-1947

Born October 27, 1901, son of David E. and Barbara M. Bower of Colon, Michigan.

He came to Ypsilanti in March of 1923 and was in the Real Estate business with George Hayes, and later expanding successfully on his own in Real Estate and Insurance.

The son, Robert K. Bower, joined the Bower Agency in the 1950's and about 1955 Earl Freeman, a long established Realtor and Insurance man joined the Bowers.

Ross was always interested in Civic affairs and was elected Alderman from the First Ward on May 1, 1930, and served until May, 1940.

He was elected Mayor of Ypsilanti on May 1, 1940, and served until May 1, 1947.

Florence L. Hayes and Ross K. Bower were married December 23, 1922. He retired from the business on October 1, 1963.

The Bowers now reside at the Gilbert Residence in Ypsilanti.

Daniel T. Quirk
1947-1951

DANIEL TROWBRIDGE QUIRK 1947-1951

Born June 8, 1903, son of Daniel Lace and Julia A. Trowbridge Quirk, Jr.

Married Jeanne Hastings Grover, daughter of Harrison Preston and Jeanne Gibson Hastings Grover, February 27, 1926, in Grand Rapids.

Always active in Civic affairs, he served eight years on the School Board, headed the United Fund for three years, President of the Chamber of Commerce, a past President of the Ypsilanti Rotary Club, President of the Washtenaw County Humane Society and was President and Treasurer of the Peninsular Paper Company for nearly twenty years.

He was elected Mayor of Ypsilanti in 1947 at the time of the enactment of the new Charter for the City and served with eclat for four years.

He died on October 21, 1969.

Carl J. Scheffler
1952-1954

CARL J. SCHEFFLER 1952-1954

Carl J. Scheffler, son of Karl G. and Elise Schneider Scheffler, born October 25, 1909, in Ypsilanti. He married Alice E. Hathaway, daughter of S. Conger and Inez A. Hathaway, Albion, Michigan, on September 1, 1930.

Carl served as Chief of First Aid and Compensation in the Parts and Equipment Division of Ford Motor Company. He rose rapidly with that company in Industrial Relations and received several Community Service Awards from Ford Motor Company. He was always active in many divisions of civic work, serving as a Member of Isaac Walton League, Ypsilanti Boy's Club, Boy Scouts of America, Elder and Treasurer of the Emmanuel Lutheran Church, Ypsilanti Planning Commission, Human Relations Commission often acting as Chairman, and Past President of the Ypsilanti Historical Society. He was elected Mayor of Ypsilanti in 1952 and served through 1954.

Carl retired from Ford Motor Company in 1971. His death on April 15, 1979, was not only a great loss to his family but to the entire community.

Rodney Hutchinson
1955-1956 1958-1959

RODNEY HUTCHINSON 1955-56 and 1958-1959

Born May 8, 1919, in Afton, Michigan, in Cheboyan County, son of Herbert C. and Edith O'Connor Hutchinson.

His education included Eastern Michigan University followed by a Law degree from the University of Michigan.

He married Dorothy Morhous on April 13, 1940, daughter of George and Mabel Diest Morhous.

Rodney served as a Councilman in 1954 and was elected Mayor of Ypsilanti in 1955, the youngest man to hold that office in the history of the City. After a lapse of one term, he was again elected Mayor in 1958-1959.

He was a District Judge and then in 1969 was appointed Probate Judge for Washtenaw County.

It was in 1957 that the State Legislature passed Public Act #123 making it possible for cities to raise and appropriate money to help any activity to advance historical interest in a community. On December 21, 1959, Louis S. White, faithfully devoting his great talents as Ypsilanti's acting Historian, petitioned the City Council to establish a Historical Committee and appoint an official City Historian. On April 18, 1960, Resolution #60-143 creating the office of City Historian and establishing an Historical Committee was adopted unanimously by the City Council. It was Rodney's interest and influence that accomplished this.

He and his wife reside at 459 Douglas Street in Ypsilanti.

Rodney served many Civic offices, he is a Past President of the Ypsilanti Community Chest, Ypsilanti Jaycees and Ypsilanti Chamber of Commerce.

William E. Foy
1957-1958

WILLIAM E. FOY 1957-1958

Born June 1, 1898, in Valley City, North Dakota, son of F.J. Foy. The family moved to Coldwater, Michigan, and Bill's high school days were spent there.

In 1917 he enlisted in the United States Navy as Hospital Apprentice 2nd Class and served at the Great Lakes Training Station until World War I ended. He returned to Coldwater and in June, 1919 graduated from the high school. In the fall of that year he enrolled in the Michigan State Normal College in Ypsilanti, majoring in Physical Education. He played three years of varsity football, serving as Captain in 1921. He graduated in June of 1922.

He served as a teacher and football coach in Dearborn until 1927 when he returned to Michigan State Normal College to obtain a higher degree.

On December 27, 1928, he married Mae Barber who came from near Williamston, Michigan, to attend the Normal College.

From 1927 until 1939 he was head of Physical Education and Recreation at Ypsilanti High School. His third position was with the Detroit Public Schools.

He served as Mayor of Ypsilanti from 1957-1958 and it was during this tenure that the Athletic Field with a baseball diamond was made on old Race Street now named Catherine Street, where the flat land is bordered by the River and the water filtration plant.

Always energetic and interested in Civic and physical fitness programs, Bill also served as Commander of American Legion Post 282 in 1936.

He died in November, 1979 and is buried in Barancas National Cemetery, United States Naval Air Station, Pensacola, Florida. His widow Mae Barber Foy, lives at 8952 Carissa Lane, New Port Richey, Florida, 33553.

RODNEY HUTCHINSON 1958-1959
(See 1955-1956)

Donald B. Fulford
1960-1961

DONALD B. FULFORD 1960-1961

Born September 12, 1918, in Wayne, Michigan, son of Charles R. and Meda Bills Fulford.

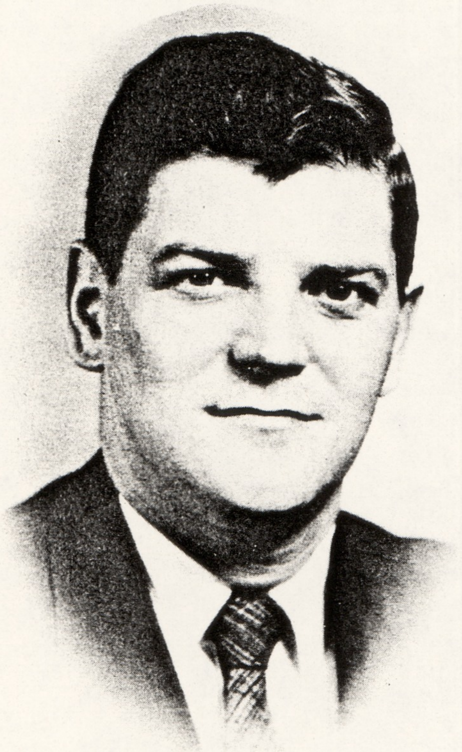
Don graduated from Ypsilanti High School and attended Michigan State Normal College.

A veteran of WWII he served four terms on the Ypsilanti City Council and was elected Mayor in 1960.

As a Methodist, he served as Superintendent of the First Methodist Church Sunday School and was always active in community affairs.

He married Barbara Hubbell of Plymouth, Michigan, on June 27, 1942.

He died April 20, 1981.



John Calder
1961-1962 1963-1964

JOHN CALDER 1961-1962 and 1963-1964

Son of Eugene B. and Freida Calder, born December 9, 1920, in Bergenfield, New Jersey.

John came to Ypsilanti in 1938, graduated from Ypsilanti High School and attended Michigan State Normal College. He attended a college in Tampa, Florida, for a year on a football scholarship.

He returned for one more year at the Michigan State Normal College and then served four years in the Air Corps of the Navy. After the war two more years of college and without graduating, he worked in the auditing department of Kaiser-Frazer.

When Kaiser-Frazer closed, John joined Ford Motor Company in purchasing at the Rawsonville plant and when he resigned from the company he was Division Purchasing Coordinator.

Always interested in Civic and Church affairs, he was a member of the Moose Lodge, American Legion Post 282, Little League team manager and his biography is in the 1965 edition of The Leading Men in the U.S.A.

John Calder served as Mayor of Ypsilanti in 1961 and again in 1963. He has his own successful business, John Calder Associates, and represents several industries as Sales Agent.

Maurice Obermeyer
1962-1963

MAURICE D. OBERMEYER 1962-1963

Born on January 7, 1904, in Jacksonville, Illinois, son of Charles Abner and Myrtle Six Obermeyer.

After graduating from High School, he attended an Engineering School in Scranton, Pennsylvania. Then followed an administrative position with the Gas and Electric Company in Oklahoma City and in 1932 joined his brother in the oil business leasing thousands of acres in Oklahoma, Kansas and Texas. However, the great depression came and they saw the price of crude oil drop from $1.70 to 10¢ a barrel.

Maurice returned to engineering and spent several years in Peoria, Illinois. When WWII came he joined the staff of the Public Housing Authority in Chicago doing site engineering for that government agency. He was sent to Ypsilanti as project manager and supervising engineer and was in charge of the war time housing in Willow Run Village.

Not only was he sent to check on the Parkridge Housing in Ypsilanti, but figured estimates and contracts for Camp Breckenridge, Kentucky, and Cleveland, Toledo and Fremont, Ohio.

After the war he had the Oldsmobile Agency and operated it for ten years, then joining the real estate firm of Ehman and Greenstreet. He served as President of the Ypsilanti Board of Realtors.

Maurice brought his great engineering experience in housing and utilities so it was natural that Ypsilanti's Urban Renewal would be established under his guidance.

It was while he was Mayor in 1962 that he succeeded in having the United States Government donate the Post Office Building at 229 West Michigan to the City for a Public Library.

Always active in social and Civic affairs, he served as Director of the Ypsilanti Kiwanis Club, The United Way, Methodist Church, Republican Party, Phoenix Lodge No. 13, and Washtenaw Country Club.

He and his wife, Vivian, a native of Jacksonville, now live in Ann Arbor.

Much of this material was lifted from the Ypsilanti Press of April 4, 1962, an article written by Eileen Harrison.

JOHN CALDER 1963-1964

(See 1961-1962)

Vincent Buck
1964-1965

VINCENT BUCK 1964-1965

Born March 7, 1926, in Marshall, Michigan, son of Lyle and Glenda Buck. He came to Ypsilanti in the 1930's.

Vince attended Florida Naval Academy in St. Augustine, Florida and in 1944 was in the B 12 Program at Alma College, Alma, Michigan.

After WWII ended, he joined the A.J. Heinz Company as a salesman with Washtenaw County as his territory. Soon the Company advanced him and his territory covered the State of Michigan and part of Ohio.

In 1968 he became a Salesman for Ehman and Greenstreet Real Estate. This led to his development of Pine Ridge Subdivision on Textile Road.

Being well and favorably known, he was elected Mayor of Ypsilanti in 1964 following John Calder. The Greek Theater was promoted that year and a big production of the old Greek Tragedy was produced on the baseball field at Eastern Michigan University with Judith Anderson and Bert Lahr in starring roles. Even the eminent New York Times Theater critic came from New York with other critics to see the production. Also during his year as Mayor, the City made possible the expansion of property on both sides of lower Race Street now called Catherine Street. Land at the corner of South Prospect and Towner Street was also acquired and a new Beyer Hospital was built.

Vince purchased the property at 950 West Cross Street in 1970 (where Alton "Red" Allison had operated a Shell Gas Station for many years) and it is now the modern home of the Buck Realty.

Vincent Buck and Suzanne Oakes were married on October 18, 1974.

Jerry F. Gooding
1965-1966

JERRY GOODING 1965-1966

He was born September 17, 1928, in Milford, Michigan, son of O.E. and Ruth E. Seely Gooding. He came with his parents to Ypsilanti and graduated from Roosevelt High School and from the University of Michigan in 1950.

His first employment was with Whittaker and Gooding Co., in 1944.

He married Marilyn J. Sturm on February 7, 1953. Marilyn is the daughter of Walter J. and Hazel M. Alban Sturm. His children are: Terry W., Nancy L., Charles F. and Ann E.

He served in the Marines in Korea and left the service as a Captain.

Jerry has been a Director of the National Bank of Ypsilanti since 1965. He was elected Chairman of the Board of the Bank in 1969 and serves in that capacity today. His unusual business ability is shown as he serves as President of Cunningham-Gooding and Board Member and Officer in the conglomerate of companies that have evolved since Whittaker and Gooding was founded in 1937 on Cherry Hill Road in Ypsilanti.

Jerry Gooding served four years on the Ypsilanti City Council and was elected Mayor of Ypsilanti in 1965. He says: "I believe that the most significant accomplishment as Mayor was running a city government that offered full service and protection to its citizens. We were able to do this within the operating budget of the city without raising taxes."

Susan H. Sayre
1966-1967

SUSAN H. SAYRE 1966-1967

Born December 23, 1916, in Detroit, daughter of Roy G. and Era G. Hayward.

After Detroit Public Schools, Susan attended Wayne State University graduating in January, 1938. She taught elementary school science from 1938-1942.

In December of 1940 she married George S. Sayre, M.D. After Dr. Sayre's term in the U.S. Navy Medical Corps during WWII, the Sayres moved to Ypsilanti in 1946.

Susan Sayre with four growing youngsters was drawn into City and school activities to which she brought intelligence and enthusiasm.

Through the League of Women Voters, she became aware of the need of the City for a new Hospital. Ypsilanti had two representatives on the P.C.H.A. Board and with great effort and coordination, a new Beyer Hospital was begun in 1967.

She served on the City Council from 1962-1968 and was elected Mayor in 1966, the first woman to be so honored in Ypsilanti. While she was Mayor, George Semple was the capable City Manager and the famous Greek Theatre opened at Briggs Stadium on the campus of Eastern Michigan University. During her tenure the City Water Purification Plant on old Race Street near Spring Street was enlarged. With an allocation of $25,000 from the City Council the old Ladies' Library was moved from 130 N. Huron Street to the remodeled Post Office building at 229 W. Michigan and became the Ypsilanti Public Library in 1962 while Susan was first serving on the City Council.

The Sayres now reside at 2028 Collegewood and Susan is secretary in the office of her husband.

John Burton
1967-1968

JOHN H. BURTON 1967-1968

Born July 18, 1910, in St. Louis, Missouri, son of George and Dahlia Burton.

He studied business administration at Stowes Teachers College in St. Louis and came to Ypsilanti in 1936, where his brother was living.

John worked at Ford-Rouge Plant and then served as chairman of the bargaining committee of the now defunct Kaiser-Frazer Local 142 UAW. Appointed to the staff of the UAW by the late Walter P. Reuther in 1954, he served under the late Roy Reuther as a PAC coordinator for the 1st and 13th Congressional Districts. In 1960 he was appointed to the staff of Region 1E by Regional Director Bard Young, as Education Director and at the time of his retirement, was servicing representative for several plants in the Region. John retired in July of 1975.

He and Willie Vaugh were married on April 22, 1939.

He served as the Mayor of Ypsilanti from 1967 to 1968 and was on the Washtenaw County Board of Supervisors from 1966 to 1970. When John was elected Mayor of Ypsilanti in 1967, there were few Negro Mayors in the entire United States. Old Life Magazine ran his picture and a story about this fact.

There were several constructive accomplishments for the betterment of the City when John was Mayor. After considerable surveying and planning, North Huron River Drive was completed and a new bridge was built crossing the Huron River at Factory Street. Ford Motor Company added to their land holdings by acquiring land on each side of old Race Street, now called Catherine Street.

It was during his tenure that he skillfully managed to have the City of Ypsilanti remodel the brick house at 220 North Huron Street so it could be used as an outstanding Historical Museum manned by the Ypsilanti Historical Society.

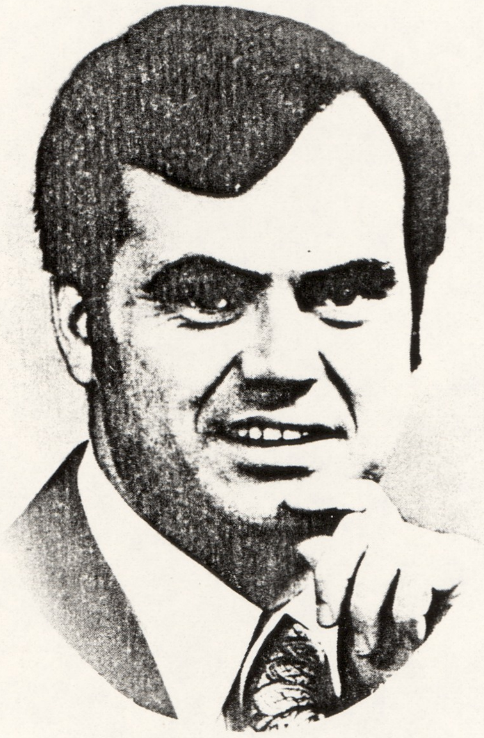
He filled a number of important Civic and public positions. He was regional chairman of the Michigan Municipal League, member of the Comprehensive Health Planning Council of Southeast Michigan and a member of the Michigan Public Health Department Advisory Council. He served as a member of the Advisory Council Adult Education Program, Eastern Michigan University, University of Michigan and Wayne State University. In February of 1985 he was appointed by Governor Blanchard to serve on the EMU Board of Regents, filling in the position which was vacated by Timothy Dyer.

(continued)

JOHN H. BURTON (Continued)

He received the distinguished Service Award by the Greater Ypsilanti Area Chamber of Commerce, Ypsilanti Branch NAACP, Second Baptist Church of Ypsilanti, Ypsilanti Association of Women's Clubs, Sigma Rho Chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., XI Phi Beta Sigma, Inc., Washtenaw Community College, Washtenaw Board of Supervisors and the Negro Business and Professional League.

He and his lovely wife Willie are enjoying their retirement years together.



Timothy Dyer
1968-1970

TIMOTHY J. DYER 1968-1970

Born December 29, 1937 in Ypsilanti, son of John and Genevive Lynn Dyer.

After attending St. John the Baptist Catholic School, he attended Ypsilanti High School. He received a Bachelor of Arts degree from Eastern Michigan University in 1961 and his Masters Degree in 1965. He was awarded a PhD from Wayne State University.

Tim became Superintendent of the Wayne-Westland Community School District on July 1, 1973. He resigned his position in 1984 to become the Superintendent of the Phoenix Union High Schools in Phoenix, Arizona.

He was serving his second term as Regent for Eastern Michigan University, having been appointed by Governor William Milliken on January 1, 1973, when he resigned in May, 1984.

During his tenure of office as Mayor of Ypsilanti 1968-1970, he was instrumental in seeing the plans for Ypsilanti's first Senior Citizens Hi-Rise accomplished. An ordinance was passed for Open Housing.

Tim is a resident of Phoenix, Arizona.

Richard L. Boatwright
1970-1972

RICHARD LEE BOATWRIGHT 1970-1972

Born February 20, 1928, in Ypsilanti, son of William and Eva Chapman Boatwright. His early years were spent with his foster mother, Mary A. Sieber.

He attended Woodruff School, West Junior High School and Ypsilanti and Roosevelt High Schools, graduating from Roosevelt in June, 1946.

Richard studied piano with Mrs. James (Margaret) Breakey, Jr., and voice with Carl Lindgren at Michigan State Normal College. Richard was the first recipient of the Ypsilanti Rotary Club Carl Lindegren Scholarship.

After High School he enlisted in the United States Army and had his basic training at Fort Knox, Kentucky, and was assigned to the Alaskan Command.

He entered Michigan State Normal College in February 1948 as a Music Major in Education earning a B.A. Degree in Administration.

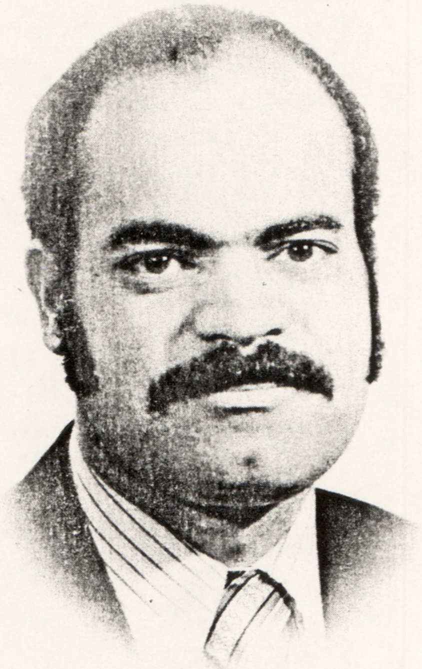
He married Margaret June Boutell, daughter of Nelson Dashner and Mary Crocker Boutell, on June 24, 1950.

After serving for four years as a music teacher in the Van Buren Schools, Belleville, he was hired by the Crestwood School District in Dearborn Heights to establish a music curriculum. In 1961 he entered the Administration of the Crestwood Schools.

Always interested in civic and political affairs in Ypsilanti, Richard L. Boatwright was elected Mayor of Ypsilanti in 1970. During his administration, he succeeded in establishing a Charter Revision Committee, completed the North Huron River Drive which was a major project, upgraded the bookkeeping operation of the City and the Motor Pool method was adopted for leasing vehicles to the various departments.

The Boatwrights were very interested and helpful in the Ypsilanti Historical Society, Margaret serving as Secretary of that organization.

The Boatwrights have an antique store in Manchester, Michigan.



George D. Goodman
1972-1983

GEORGE D. GOODMAN 1972-1983

Born September 13, 1940, in Saginaw, Michigan, son of George V. and Thelma Goodman.

After public school, George graduated from Roosevelt High School in June, 1958. He received his B.A. Degree from Eastern Michigan University in Political Science in June 1963.

He served four years as Company Executive Officer, Adjutant Company Commander, U.S. Army (United States and Germany).

He was an instructor at Roosevelt High School from 1967-1968. George served as Assistant Director of Admissions for the University of Michigan from 1969-1973 and completed his Masters Degree in Educational Administration from EMU in June, 1970. In 1973 he became Director of Opportunity Program, University of Michigan. On December 17, 1983, he became Director of the Municipal League in Ann Arbor.

In 1970 he was elected to the Ypsilanti City Council and after serving as Mayor Pro-Tem for the City he was elected Mayor in 1972.

George's Civic committments are many and varied: Member of Board of Directors of the Huron Valley Girl Scouts Council for Washtenaw County 1972-1978; Member, Board of Directors, Ypsilanti Chamber of Commerce, Industrial Development Corporation, 1975 to present; Member of Human Relations Commission, Ypsilanti 1967 and Chairman 1969; 1979 Washtenaw County United Way Board of Directors to present; President, Michigan Municipal League, Ann Arbor 1978-1979; 1979 Member, Michigan Black Historic Sites Committee; 1973-1978 Board of Directors, Youth for Understanding, Washington, D.C.; 1975 and 1979 selected by the U.S. Department of State in a joint conference with Soviet officials in Exeter, New Hampshire and in Washington, D.C.; 1979 State of Michigan Legislature, A Resolution of Tribute to Honorable George D. Goodman, Mayor of Ypsilanti; Distinguished Community Service Award, Ypsilanti Area Chamber of Commerce; 1974 Distinguished Service Award, Ypsilanti Area Jaycees and selected as one of the Five Outstanding Young Men in Michigan; 1972 Alumni Honors Award, Eastern Michigan University Alumni Association; Membership in American Association of Education Opportunity Program Personnel; Life Member Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, N.A.A.C.P. and Ypsilanti Historical Society.

While serving as Ypsilanti Mayor many things were accomplished. To list a few: Construction of a new Fire Station, Municipal Swimming Pool, Move City Hall from the Quirk Mansion to the present location, Replacement of Factory-Spring Street Bridge and also the old Prospect Street Bridge.

He resigned as Mayor on December 17, 1983.

PETER MURDOCK
1982-

PETER J. MURDOCK 1982-
Born May 1, 1943, in Boston, Masschusetts. His parents were Grant and Irene Murdock. He came to the area in 1966 quite by accident. When touring the country with a cousin, their 1947 Ford broke down in Toledo. Being acquainted with friends in Ann Arbor, they hitchhiked with a Siamese Cat (not an easy task) to their friends. Settling in Ypsilanti in 1967, he worked for Ford Motor Company at Rawsonville and attended Eastern Michigan University and Washtenaw Community College.

Peter was a councilman for the 5th Ward for five years before becoming Mayor in December 1982 upon the resignation of George Goodman. He was elected Mayor in April of 1983 for a two year term.

He married Grace Sweeney of Flint in December of 1976 during the Christmas holidays.

Peter is a member of Depot Town, East Side Association, N.A.A.C.P., Heritage Festival, and the Ypsilanti Historical Society.

The Murdocks live at 504 North River Street.